

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07
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STATE PASS S/NM

HQS PASS EN, ENOF FROM RD ADDARIO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT PIL/C 493-238-0-40091
(HELICOPTERS)

1. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE THAI AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE COMPANY'S (THAI AM) ABILITY TO PROVIDE SPARE PARTS RESUPPLY ON A TIMELY BASIS FOR USG-SUPPLIED HELICOPTERS TO THE THAI POLICE AVIATION DIVISION (TPAD).
2. RECENT INVESTIGATION HAS REVEALED A THREE-TO-FOUR-MONTH LEAD TIME TO ACQUIRE SPARE PARTS WHICH COULD BE AVAILABLE IN A MAXIMUM OF THIRTY DAYS. THE AIRCRAFT WHICH CRASHED 18 APRIL 1977 AS A RESULT OF A FAULTY FCU IS STILL GROUNDED FOR PARTS. AFTER A RECENT CRASH OF ANOTHER USG-SUPPLIED HELICOPTER ON 8 NOVEMBER DURING A NARCOTICS TRAINING OPERATION, FOR A BRIEF PERIOD ONLY ONE USG-SUPPLIED HELICOPTER WAS LEFT FLYABLE. THERE ARE NOW THREE HELICOPTERS OPERATION. THE NARCOTICS AIR OPERATIONS ADVISOR,

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DEA, RESPORTS MAINTENANCE AND AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY GOOD CONSIDERING TPAD CAPABILITIES AND SPARE PARTS AVAILABILITY. ALSO, THEY HAVE DIVERTED OTHER HELICOPTERS FOR NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION MISSIONS AS NECESSARY TO ASSURE THAT OPERATIONS ARE NOT HINDERED.

3. THE PROBLEM APPEARS TO LIE IN THAI AM'S LACK OF

CREDIT WITH INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS AND PARTS MANUFACTURERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THAI AM MUST DETERMINE AVAILABILITY AND COST OF A SPECIFIC ITEM, THEN APPROPRIATE THE FUNDS, RECEIVE APPROVAL TO PURCHASE AND ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL LETTER OF CREDIT THROUGH COMMERCIAL BANKING FACILITIES PRIOR TO ORDERING THE PART.

4. THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE TPAD, MAJOR GENERAL SONGKHRAM, HAS INFORMED THE NARCOTICS AIR OPERATIONS ADVISOR, DEA, THAT HIS PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL CREDIT WITH COMMERCIAL BANKING FACILITIES FOR THAI AM WITH TPAD FUNDS. THE GENERAL HOPES THAT THIS WOULD ALLOW THAI AM TO ORDER PARTS IMMEDIATELY, FOREGOING THE LONG APPROPRIATION PROCESS. THE GENERAL'S STATED POLICY IS A MAXIMUM OF 45 DAYS FOR PARTS ACQUISITION. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE COULD NOT FORESEE BY-PASSING OR SEVERING TPAD TIES WITH THAI AM.

5. FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH SEVERAL POLICE OFFICIALS EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM. AS A RESULT OF OUR EFFORTS, GENERAL CHAVALIT YODMANEE OF THE THAI POLICE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER (PNSC) HAS ASKED THE NARCOTICS AIR OPERATIONS ADVISOR, DEA, FOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO SOLVE THE AVIATION MAINTENANCE PROBLEM AND IS ARRANGING AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EARLY MEETING WITH GENERAL SONGKHRAM TO TRY AND RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. THE MEETING IS PROPOSED FOR EARLY DECEMBER WHEN ALL PARTIES WILL BE AVAILABLE. WILL ADVISE RESULTS. O'DONOHUE

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